

the fact that in so many similar instances this is the case. This problem will never be solved as long as this type of individual is allowed at large. In the experience of the reviewer as well as the experience of all alienists it is common to run across such individuals and the problem is what to do with them. Not long ago with other physicians the reviewer examined many individuals in the Philadelphia House of Correction in which many such imbeciles were found. Yet there is no law which allows the city to hold these individuals and to treat them. As a consequence the reviewer made an inquiry as to whether there were laws which gave courts the right to examine these individuals for the purpose of placing them in institutions which could control them. In only one instance did he find that there was such a law. Nothing can ever be accomplished until the National Government takes up this matter and makes it possible that throughout the whole United States similar measures should be adopted. So long as each city or State is allowed to make its own laws or rather do without any law, just so long the question of the criminal imbecile will be a standing menace to the community.

T. H. W.

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AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF COLOR VISION. By J. HERBERT PARSONS, D.Sc., F.R.C.S. Cambridge University Press, New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

WITH this study of color vision the author has given us another volume that maintains the high standards attained by his previous works. The vast literature on this subject has been reviewed, sifted, and woven together in a work that presents the important facts concerning the subject in a manner that will make this volume of real use to those interested in this subject. There are but few men, confining their energies to ophthalmology, who are as well qualified as the author to write a volume of this character, for aside from his qualification as a practitioner and pathologist he has shown much interest in vision in its various phases and has made a number of valuable contributions to this subject.

The work is divided into three parts: The first discusses the chief facts of normal color vision; the second, the chief facts of color blindness; the third, the chief theories of color vision. The first two parts are of greater interest to the physiologist and psychologist, but they contain much that the practical ophthalmologist could absorb with profit, but it will require careful and thoughtful reading, owing to the mathematical and experimental character of the work. Part three deals with the more practical side of the subject, and in it are discussed the Young-Helmholtz and Hering

theories as well as the theories of Donders, Ladd-Franklin, McDougall, Schenck, Wundt, Müller, and Edridge-Green.

In the reviewer's experience there is probably no branch of ophthalmology concerning which the average practitioner has such a limited knowledge. In this volume this intricate subject is handled in the masterly way one would expect when we consider both the scientific and practical training of the author.

T. B. H.

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REFRACTION OF THE HUMAN EYE AND METHODS OF ESTIMATING THE REFRACTION. By JAMES THORINGTON, A.M., M.D. Pp. 407; 347 illustrations, 27 in colors. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co.

In order to simplify the work of the student, the author has very wisely condensed his volumes on *Refraction and How to Refract*, *Prisms*, and *Retinoscopy* into one volume. In so doing he has produced his best work, and one that is certain to meet with popular approval. The volume is divided into twenty-three chapters, so arranged that beginning with optics the student is judiciously and easily lead through the various phases of the subject until the more practical part, dealing with refraction, is discussed, and finally the measuring and fitting of glasses. The generosity with which the volume is illustrated also adds much to the convenience of the reader.

The author is not only to be congratulated on the appearance of his most satisfactory work, but also in his decision to eliminate certain obsolete test from a practical manual of this type.

T. B. H.

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DISEASES OF THE SKIN. By RICHARD L. SUTTON, M.D., Professor of Diseases of the Skin, University of Kansas School of Medicine; Dermatologist to the Christian Church Hospital. Pp. 916; 693 illustrations and 18 colored plates. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company, 1916.

SUTTON's text-book on skin diseases is a variant from the modern large treatises published in this country on cutaneous affections: (1) it contains from 100 to 400 pages less; (2) fully twice as many illustrations are employed as in any other book, exclusive of an atlas; (3) more stress has been laid upon the pathology, and there are more illustrations depicting the histopathology of this subject than in all of the other American cutaneous treatises combined.

Naturally with the lessened text and the doubled space occupied by the illustrations the detailed description is not so complete as in